

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 00735 131518Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 MCT-01 /063 W
-----090087 132235Z /75

R 131454Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 507
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, IS
SUBJ: WEST BANK REACTION TO PALESTINIAN COMMANDO RAID

1. SUMMARY: ARABIC PRESS REACTION TO MARCH 11 PALESTINIAN COMMANDO OPERATION HAS BEEN SUBDUED. PREVAILING MORAL: THE PALESTINIANS CANNOT BE EXCLUDED FROM A PEACE SETTLEMENT. INITIAL PRIVATE REACTION MIXED. END SUMMARY.

2. WHILE STORY OF PALESTINIAN COMMANDO OPERATION WAS BANNED BY LOCAL ARABIC PRESS OVER THE WEEKEND, EDITORIAL REACTION HAS BEEN SUBDUED. THE MORE EXTREME PAPERS HAVE AVOIDED DIRECT COMMENT, WHILE THE MODERATE "AL QUDS" MARCH 13 SPOKE OF "THE CHAIN OF BLOODY AND SAD EVENTS WHICH PROVE THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING STABILITY IN THE REGION WITHOUT SOLVING PROBLEMS AT THEIR CORE." WHILE NOTING THE CENTRALITY OF THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE, "AL QUDS" ALSO CITES EGYPTIAN MINISTER GHALI AS STATING IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO ACCELERATE THE PEACE PROCESS TO AVOID FURTHER TRAGEDIES.

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PAGE 02 JERUSA 00735 131518Z

3. INITIAL PRIVATE REACTION HAS BEEN MIXED. SOME TAKE SATISFACTION IN EVEN A SUICIDE ATTACK ON THE GROUNDS THAT PALESTINIANS CAN BETTER AFFORD THE PROBABLE LOSS OF LIFE IN REPRISALS THAN CAN THE ISRAELIS IN THE INITIAL ATTACK. OTHERS MORE THOUGHTFULLY FAULT THE PLO FOR INDISCRIMINATE STRIKES AT CIVILIAN TARGETS WHICH ONLY ACCORD ISRAEL WORLD SYMPATHY AND

COULD FURTHER HARDEN CURRENT ISRAELI POSITIONS IN

NEGOTIATIONS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WEST BANK, PALESTINIANS, PRESS COMMENTS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JERUSA00735
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780112-0102
Format: TEL
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780376/aaaacmpv.tel
Line Count: 65
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6f5274c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3354958
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEST BANK REACTION TO PALESTINIAN COMMANDO RAID
TAGS: PINS, IS, PLO, FATAH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6f5274c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014